

# BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

From the meeting of:

**April 1, 2008**

At Holy Cross Catholic School, Kemptville



# CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Learning and Growing Together in Christ

## Student Success Update Presented to Board

“Begin with the end in mind: a meaningful graduation outcome for all students.” Supervising Principal of Student Success, Sheila Farris, told the Board those words are the driving force behind the Student Success program. Mrs. Farris offered an update to Trustees on new and future initiatives.

Data over the three year period since the initiative was launched shows that CDSBEO has seen a marked improvement in the Grade 9 and 10 credit accumulation rate, and the number of students leaving the system has dropped significantly.

“The journey to student success is unique to each student,” said Mrs. Farris. “Our students deserve to have the necessary support and access to programs based on their learning needs, strengths and areas of interest.”

Among the new developments in the program is the Specialist High Skills Major Pilot project. The project allows students to focus on many learning opportunities within a particular area or industry sector, thus preparing them for post secondary education, apprenticeship, or the working world. The programs have been a success, and expansion is planned for next year.

Other goals for the 2008-2009 school year include: greater access to more choices for students, working to ensure that the total student population experiences success, with a particular focus on early success by ensuring a smooth transition into secondary school.

## Catholic Education Week Resource Presented

Principal of Religious and Family Life Education, Tom Jordan, presented information about Catholic Education Week 2008 (April 27 to May 2).

“The theme of this year’s Catholic Education Week is *We are Called*,” said Mr. Jordan. “This is a wonderful complement to our Board theme *Called to serve... as disciples of Christ!* Over the course of the year, our students have learned that we are called to act justly, love tenderly, walk humbly, serve generously, and live peacefully. These are the five sub-themes of Catholic Education Week.”

The Board has distributed resources specifically directed towards elementary and secondary schools in the form of Catholic Education Week Kits. These kits are produced by the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association and contain daily prayers, suggested curriculum, and activities for all grade levels.

Mr. Jordan said that one of the highlights of Catholic Education Week in CDSBEO is always the Board-wide Mass. “Representatives from each school community come together to celebrate who we are and what we do. We also use the week as an opportunity to reach out to all of our Catholic community partners and remind them how much we appreciate their ongoing support and how important this support is to us by inviting our parents, grandparents and community members to participate in a wide variety of spiritual and educational activities.”

## Holy Cross Catholic School Hosts Board Meeting

Kemptville’s Holy Cross Catholic School hosted the CDSBEO’s regular Board Meeting of April 1 and provided a look back at the school’s origin, and a look at its present and future.

“Having you here gives us a wonderful opportunity to revisit the story of Holy Cross, a school with a rich history of faith, growth, and strength. It is such a wonderful story to be a part of and it is a joy to share it with you,” said Holy Cross Principal, Donna Koekkoek.

Ms. Koekkoek told trustees that the story began when the school was built in 1961 as a four room school house. “It has seen much expansion over the years, including last summer, when an addition housing 10 classrooms and a multi-purpose room was added for our primary students,” said Ms. Koekkoek.

Four students, Emma Faghali, Thomas Allingham, Lauren Bellfontaine and Melissa Keating, were introduced to tell the next chapter of the school’s story by sharing what the new addition means to the students.

Among the comments shared were:  
*-The new wing is awesome because you see a beautiful, bright entrance with glass. The new wing rocks!!!*

*-The new wing is incredibly fabulous! One of the things I think is neat is the multi-purpose room.*

*-I am really enjoying the new school. It is fun. Thank you for the new colours and thank you for everything!*

### Meetings / Events

**Apr. 8** Special Education Advisory Committee - Sacred Heart Catholic School, Cornwall 7:00 pm  
**Apr. 22** Earth Day

For more information contact CDSBEO Communications at **613-258-7757** or **1-800-443-4562, ext. 206**.  
Visit us online at [www.cdsbeo.on.ca](http://www.cdsbeo.on.ca) for news from our schools, program information and much more.

### Next Board Meeting:

April 15, 2008  
7:00 p.m.  
Kemptville Board  
Office